

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-7 are pending. Claims 1, 3 and 5 stand rejected. Applicant acknowledges Claims 2, 4 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Abstract has been amended herein in compliance with 37 CFR 1.72. No claims have been amended as part of this response.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and removal of the rejections of claims 1 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kawakami et al. (US Patent No. 6,661,470) for at least the following reasons. Present Claim 1 recites motion vector calculation in pixel resolution while the Kawakami et al. utilizes sub-pixel resolution. Furthermore, present Claim 1 requires restriction of the motion vector field in pixel resolution to discrete motion vectors having the characteristic that the discrete motion vectors from the decimated vector field have a more symmetrical arrangement with regard to the pixels on which they lie than the excluded motion vectors. In contrast, Kawakami et al. teaches away from the claimed solution of present Claim 1, by teaching use of the best motion vector in sub-pixel resolution regardless of which symmetry the vector has. Moreover, nowhere does Kawakami et al. disclose the symmetry characteristic of a motion vector, as is recited in present Claim 1.

For all of the foregoing reasons, independent Claim 1 is not rendered obvious in view of the Kawakami et al reference; reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Rejection of Claims 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawakami et al in view of Sugiyama (U.S. Patent No. 6,393,059). Claims 3 and 5 depend from patentably distinct base Claim 1. The arguments discussed above with respect to Kawakami et al. apply equally to the


instant rejection. Moreover, Sugiyama fails to cure the deficiencies of the primary reference. Sugiyama also fails to show replacing motion vectors with pixel resolution with neighboring motion vectors having a more symmetrical arrangement with regard to the pixels on which they lie. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this 35 USC 103 rejection.

CONCLUSION

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. No fee is believed due in regard to the present amendment. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 50-3208. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at 215-542-5824, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

June 23, 2005
Date

